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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/500,586	09/09/2004	Bum-Joon Kim	038779/280277	7698
826	7590	06/23/2009	EXAMINER	
ALSTON & BIRD LLP			SWARTZ, RODNEY P	
BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA				
101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000			1645	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/23/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/500,586	KIM ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Rodney P. Swartz, Ph.D.	1645	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2009.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 and 8-16 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) 2-4 and 16 is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 5 and 8-15 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 1 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
     1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
     2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
     3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .                                    |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                        |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicants' Response to Office Action, received 7 April 2009, is acknowledged. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8 have been amended.
2. Claims 1-5 and 8-16 are pending and under consideration.

**Rejections Withdrawn**

3. The rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for a polynucleotide "of an hsp 65 gene fragment", is withdrawn in light of the amendment of the claim.
4. The rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for as set of one, is withdrawn in light of the amendment of the claim.
5. The rejection of claims 1, 2, 5 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for size of fragment in claims, is withdrawn in light of the amendment of the claims.

**Rejections Maintained**

6. The rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for steps are involved in "analyzing" a nucleotide sequence, a set of one, and "infer a phylogenetic tree", is maintained.

As newly amended, the claim now is drawn to a method for the identification of mycobacterial species comprising the steps of: (1) amplifying an hsp 65 gene fragment of mycobacterial species of interest with primers wherein one primer consists of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:55 and the other primer consists of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:56, (2) sequencing "a" nucleotide sequence of the amplified hsp 65 gene fragment; and (3) multi-aligning the nucleotide sequence of the amplified 65 gene fragment sequenced in step (2) with

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at least one hsp 65 gene fragment selected from the group of polynucleotides consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 to SEQ ID NO:54 and polynucleotides complementary thereto.

It remains unclear how one identifies the particular mycobacterial species as there is no step that indicates how one distinguishes which species is present.

Also, as newly amended step (2) now recites "sequencing a nucleotide sequence of" the amplified hsp 65 gene fragment. Because of the open language "a nucleotide sequence of" instead of "the nucleotide sequence of", it is unclear how much of the amplified hsp 65 gene fragment is actually sequenced.

### **Claim Objections**

7. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: there should be an "and" prior to "the size of" in the fourth line. Appropriate correction is required.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112**

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claim 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims depend from an objected claim 1.

### **Conclusion**

9. Claim 5 and 8-15 are rejected. Claim 1 is objected to.

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Rodney P. Swartz, Ph.D., Art Unit 1645, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM EST. Thursday is the examiner's work at home day.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, please contact the Examiner's Supervisor, Robert B. Mondesi (571)272-0956.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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/Rodney P. Swartz, Ph.D./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1645

June 19, 2009